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B.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment in addition to the use of a password comprising the steps of:

storing utilization information of previous access to the information equipment along with at least one password in an electrically writeable read only memory having access controls that control access to reading and/or writing the utilization information and the password;

informing a current user of the utilization information of previous accesses when the current user obtains access to the information equipment;

writing utilization information of the current user's access into the electrically writeable read only memory for informing a future user of the current user's access and using the access controls to read and/or write utilization information and to block access of the current user for modification of such utilization information; and

writing the utilization information ~~in at least any one of when the information equipment is powered on,~~ when the information equipment resumes from a power saving mode~~, and when a specific function of the information equipment is selected~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method for preventing an unauthorized access to information equipment according to claim 1, wherein the utilization information includes at least one of each of:

the number of power-on times of the information equipment;

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the number of resumes of the information equipment from a
power saving mode;

the number of selections of a specific function of the
information equipment; and

the number of activation times of the information
equipment, including at least one of:

>the number of power-on times and the number of resumes
>from the power saving mode, the last date and time of
>power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the
>information equipment;

>the last date and time of shifting the information
>equipment to the power saving mode or the last date
>and time of resuming the information equipment from
>the power saving mode;

>the last date and time when a specific function of the
>information equipment was selected or the last date
>and time when use of the specific function of the
>information equipment was completed; and

>a total use time of the information equipment.

3.   (Previously Amended) The method for preventing an
unauthorized access to information equipment according to
Claim 1, wherein the utilization information of the
information equipment is obtained by reading utilization
information that should be obtained next time and is
written in the storage means, or by reading information
necessary for obtaining the utilization information written
in the storage means and performing predetermined
calculation with using the information that is read.

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4.   (Previously Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) The method for preventing an unauthorized access to the information equipment according to Claim 1 [[4]], wherein the current utilization information includes one of:

the number of power-on times of the information equipment;~

the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode;~

the number of activation times of the information equipment including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode;~

the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment;~

the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode;~ and

the total use time of the information equipment.

6.   (Previously Canceled)

7.   (Previously Canceled)

8.   (Previously Canceled)

9.   (Previously Canceled)

10.   (Previously Canceled)

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

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a nonvolatile storage means for storing passwords that can lock storage contents against modification by users;

a utilization information management unit for obtaining utilization information about time of use of the computer ~~in at least anyone of when the computer is powered-on, when a specific function of the computer was selected and~~ when the computer resumes from a power saving mode, and writing the utilization information into the nonvolatile storage means, and locking storage contents; and

a teaching unit for informing a user of the utilization information obtained by the utilization information management unit and stored in the nonvolatile storage means where it cannot be modified by the user.

12.   (Currently Amended) The computer according to Claim 11, wherein the utilization information includes at least one of:

the number of power-on times of the computer;[[,]]

the number of resumes of the computer from a power saving mode;[[,]]

the number of activation times of the computer including the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode;[[,]]

the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the computer;[[,]]

the last date and time of shifting the computer to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the computer from the power saving mode;[[,]] and

the total use time of the computer.

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13.   (Previously Amended) The computer according to Claim 11,
      wherein the storage means comprises an EEPROM that can lock
      storage contents from modification by a user.

14.   (Previously Canceled)

15.   (Previously Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) An information equipment program
      product on an information equipment usable medium method
      for preventing an unauthorized access to the information
      equipment the program product comprising the steps of:

      software for obtaining utilization information about time
      of use of the information equipment;

      software for using the controls for controlling access to
      passwords to write and/or read and to lock utilization
      information into a writeable read only storage means used
      to store the passwords;

      software for informing a user of the previous utilization
      information; and

      software for writing utilization information by the user
      into storage means to be obtained next time the equipment
      is used by an authorized user, said utilized information
      including ~~at least one of when the information equipment is
      powered on,~~ when the information equipment resumes from a
      power saving mode~~, and when a specific function of the
      information equipment is selected~~.

17.   (Currently Amended) The program product according to Claim
      [[1]] 16, wherein the current utilization information
      includes at least one of each of:

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the number of power-on times of the information equipment;

the number of resumes of the information equipment from a power saving mode;

the number of selections of a specific function of the information equipment;

the number of activation times of the information equipment including at least one of:

the number of power-on times and the number of resumes from the power saving mode;[[,]]

the last date and time of power-on or the last date and time of power-off of the information equipment;[[,]]

the last date and time of shifting the information equipment to the power saving mode or the last date and time of resuming the information equipment from the power saving mode;[[,]]

the last date and time when a specific function of the information equipment was selected or the last date and time when use of the specific function of the information equipment was completed;[[,]] and

a total use time of the information equipment.

18.   (Original) The program product according to Claim 17 including:

software for writing utilization information to be obtained or information necessary for obtaining utilization information into a nonvolatile storage means that can lock storage contents, and locking the storage contents of the storage means.

19. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1 including the steps of:

providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

a) no access

b) read only access

c) no access constraints

and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 including:

software providing the writeable read only store with access control with the ability of providing in the alternative

a) no access

b) read only access

c) no access constraints

and with an access control to permit or not permit changing between the aforementioned states.